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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/333,821	06/15/1999	REBECCA S. LEVINE	MICR0154	4582

27792 7590 07/14/2003

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EXAMINER

PAULA, CESAR B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2178

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/333,821

Applicant(s)

LEVINE ET AL.

Examiner

CESAR B PAULA

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the CPA filed on 4/30/2003.

This action is made Non-Final.

2. In the amendment, claims 1-33 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 18, and 24 are independent claims.
3. The rejections of claims 1-6, 9-10, 16, 18, 21, 23-24, 27, 29-30, and 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobol et al, hereinafter Sobol (Pat. # 5,907,665, 5/25/99), and further in view of Hawes (Pat. # 6,094,662, 7/25/00, filed on 4/30/98) have been withdrawn as necessitated by the amendment.
4. The rejections of claims 7-8, 19, 22, 25, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobol, in view of Hawes, and further in view of Mastering Photoshop 5 for the Web, hereinafter Photoshop (1998, pp.1-10) have been withdrawn as necessitated by the amendment.
5. The rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobol, in view of Hawes, further in view of Photoshop, and further in view of Troubleshooting and configuring the Windows NT/95 Registry, Clayton Johnson, hereinafter Johnson (1997, pp.1-2) has been withdrawn as necessitated by the amendment.

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6. The rejections of claims 12-13, 15, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobol, in view of Hawes, and further in view of IBM ADF Color Scanner user's guide, hereinafter ADF (7/1995, pp.14-22, and fig.1-16) have been withdrawn as necessitated by the amendment.

7. The rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobol, in view of Hawes, and further in view of ADF, and further in view of Arakawa (Pat.#5,845,076, 12/1/98) has been withdrawn as necessitated by the amendment.

8. The rejections of claims 20, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobol, in view of Hawes, further in view of Hearn et al, hereinafter Hearn (Pat.# 6,154,756, 11/28/00, filed on 7/1/96) have been withdrawn as necessitated by the amendment.

9. The rejection of claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobol, in view of Hawes, and further in view of TWAIN Specification v. 1.8(10/22/98 as disclosed by Applicants) have been withdrawn as necessitated by the amendment.

Claim Objections

10. Claims 18-23 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 18 recites "said data are already in the compressed format" line 16. "data" is a singular noun not plural. Appropriate correction is required.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

11. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

12. Claims 18-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claim 18 recites in limitation (d): "converting said data representing the selected image into a compressed format unless said data are already in the compressed format". The Applicants stated that support for compressing images is found in the specification in page 3, line 30-page 4, line 2, and page 4, line 33-page 5, line 1. The above limitation is not found in these passages of the specification as indicated by the Applicants.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

13. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

14. Claims 1-3, 6, 9-10, 12-13, 15-17, 24-25, and 27-31 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Camarda et al, "Special Edition Using Microsoft Word 2000", hereinafter

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Camarda, 1/8/1999, chapter 1, "Creating New Documents", chapter 20, "Inserting Pictures directly, Without Clip Gallery", chapter 29 "Using Powerpoint"..

Regarding independent claim 1, Camarda teaches the acquisition, and insertion of a scanned image(s), from an *active* TWAIN scanner, under control of a wordprocessing application, into a textual document(s) located in a Wordprocessing application (pages 1-2, 6). The insertion of the scanned image(s) into the textual document(s) is done directly from the scanner, without using an additional applet, that is without saving the image into a permanent file in the computer memory prior to inserting the file into the textual document.

Regarding claim 2, which depends on claim 1, Camarda discloses the generation of a drop-down list containing devices available in the computer, and enabling a user to select from the drop down list, an active device (pages 6-7).

Claim 3 is directed towards a method for implementing the steps found in claim 1, and therefore is similarly rejected.

Regarding claim 6, which depends on claim 1, Camarda discloses allowing a user to customize or enhance the image settings to be inserted into the document by selecting the resolution to be used in displaying and outputting the image (page 6-7).

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Regarding claim 9, which depends on claim 1, Camarda discloses allowing a user to control scanner resolution to be used in scanning by choosing a wordprocessor menu or the device's driver, thereby allowing the wordprocessor to negotiate with the scanner as to the quality or resolution of the image (page 6-7).

Regarding claim 10, which depends on claim 9, Camarda discloses allowing a user to customize the image settings. The settings available depend upon the device's type or its capabilities (page 7).

Regarding claim 12, which depends on claim 1, Camarda discloses the automatic scan of images into a document without requiring a user to select image capture parameters, using only TWAIN enabled scanners or cameras, thereby determining whether the device(s) is TWAIN compliant (page 1, 6).

Regarding claim 13, which depends on claim 12, Camarda discloses the scanning of an image at a web or print quality resolution-- controlling the X, Y resolution-- as set by a user selecting the image to be scanned. The Wordprocessor displays an interface provided by the device, for customizing settings (pages 6-7).

Moreover, Camarda teaches the direct insertion of an image from a device by allowing a user to bypass the device interface (page 6, fig. 20.26).

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Regarding claim 15, which depends on claim 12, Camarda discloses the automatic scan of images into a document using only TWAIN enabled scanners or cameras, thereby determining whether the device(s) is TWAIN compliant, and only using a single user selection of an Insert button (page 1, 6).

Claims 16-17 are directed towards a computer-readable medium for storing the steps found in claims 1, and 12 respectively, therefore are similarly rejected.

Claims 24-25 are directed towards a system for implementing the steps found in claims 1, and 1 respectively, and therefore are similarly rejected.

Regarding claim 27, which depends on claim 24, Camarda teaches the acquisition, transfer, and insertion of a scanned images, from an *active* TWAIN scanner, into a textual document(s) produced with a wordprocessor—*presentation design application* (pages 1-2, 6-7).

Regarding claim 28, which depends on claim 24, Camarda teaches the acquisition, transfer, and insertion of a scanned images, from an *active* TWAIN scanner, into a textual document(s) (pages 1-2, 6-7).

Claim 29 is directed towards a system for implementing the steps found in claim 15, and therefore is similarly rejected.

Regarding claim 30, which depends on claim 24, Camarda discloses the automatic scan of images into a document using only a single user selection of an Insert button to invoke the scanning (pages 1, 6).

Regarding claim 31, which depends on claim 24, Camarda discloses allowing a user to customize or enhance the image settings to be inserted into the document. This enhancement is done from within the wordprocessor (page 7).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

15. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

16. Claims 4-5, 18, 21-23, and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Camarda, in view of Sobol et al, hereinafter Sobol (Pat. # 5,907,665, 5/25/99).

Regarding claim 4, which depends on claim 1, Camarda discloses allowing a user to customize or enhance the image settings to be inserted into the document. This enhancement is done from within the wordprocessor (page 7). Camarda fails to explicitly disclose: *scanning a graphic source that has defined edges, further comprising the steps of automatically detecting the edges of the graphic source, and cropping the image at the edges of the graphic source to*

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exclude any portion of a scanned field. However, Sobol discloses the selection of a specific portion of an image detecting the edges, thereby leaving unwanted data out, and cropping it to comply with the user's selection (col.4, lines 21-67). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Camarda, and Sobol, because Sobol teaches allowing the benefit of customizing a desired image by allowing the user to crop and select desired portions of the image. Therefore, a user would be able to select only the portion of an image(s) desired.

Regarding claim 5, which depends on claim 1, Camarda discloses allowing a user to customize or enhance the image settings to be inserted into the document (page 7). Camarda fails to explicitly disclose: *converting the data representing the image into a compressed format prior to inserting the data into the document.* However, Sobol discloses the compression of an image before inserting in a document (col.4, lines 37-col.5, line 18). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Camarda, and Sobol, because Sobol teaches above the benefit of reduction of memory and processing time required to process the image.

Regarding independent claim 18, Camarda teaches the acquisition, transfer, and insertion of a scanned images, from an *active* TWAIN scanner, under control of a wordprocessing application, into a textual document(s) located in the Wordprocessing application (pages 1-2, 6-7). The scanning, and insertion of the images is made using a scheme or a number of prescribed steps.

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Moreover, Camarda teaches the insertion of scanned images directly into a textual document without saving the images to a file prior to inserting them into the document. Camarda fails to explicitly teach *converting said data representing the selected image into a compressed format unless said data are already in the compressed format, and (e)*. Sobol discloses the compression of image(s), not compressed, before inserting in a document (col.4, lines 37-col.5, line 18). However, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combine the teachings of Camarda, and Sobol, because Sobol teaches above the benefit of reducing the amount of memory and processing time require to store, and process the images.

Regarding claim 21, which depends on claim 18, Camarda teaches the acquisition, transfer, and insertion of a scanned images, from an *active* TWAIN scanner, into a textual document(s) located in the Wordprocessing application, such as a slide presentation made up of individual slides (pages 1-2, 6-14).

Regarding claim 22, which depends on claim 18, Camarda teaches the editing and enhancing of scanned images, using editing tools, such as Microsoft Draw, from within the wordprocessor (pages 1-2, 6-15).

Claim 23 is directed towards a computer-readable medium for storing the steps found in claim 18, therefore is similarly rejected.

Regarding claim 32, which depends on claim 24, Camarda discloses allowing a user to customize or enhance the image settings of the image to be inserted into the document. This enhancement is done from within the wordprocessor (page 7). Camarda fails to explicitly disclose: *the image is acquired by scanning a graphic source that has edges of the graphic source so as to automatically crop a scanned field included within the graphic source in the image, the image being so cropped prior to the data representing the image being inserted into the document.* However, Sobol discloses the selection of a specific portion of an image prior to inserting the image into a document, detecting the edges, thereby leaving unwanted data out, and cropping them to comply with the user's selection (col.4, lines 21-67). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Camarda, and Sobol, because Camarda teaches allowing the benefit of customizing a desired image by allowing the user to crop and select desired portions of the image. Therefore, a user would be able to select only the portion of an image(s) desired by a user.

Claim 33 is directed towards a system for implementing the steps found in claim 5, and therefore is similarly rejected.

17. Claims 7-8, 19, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Camarda, in view of Mastering Photoshop 5 for the Web, hereinafter Photoshop (1998, pp.1-10).

Regarding claim 7, which depends on claim 6, Camarda teaches the acquisition, transfer, and insertion of a scanned images, from an *active* TWAIN scanner, under control of a

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wordprocessing application, into a textual document(s) located in the Wordprocessing application (pages 1-2, 6-7). Camarda fails to explicitly disclose: *enhancement criterion is a contrast level of the image that is adjusted to enhance a brightness*. However, Photoshop teaches the altering of an image contrast/brightness (p.8,L.1-28). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Camarda, and Photoshop, because Photoshop teaches above the benefit of increasing the legibility of a textual document. This would increase the legibility of the image obtained by the scanner, or device.

Regarding claim 8, which depends on claim 6, Camarda teaches the acquisition, transfer, and insertion of a scanned images, from an *active* TWAIN scanner, under control of a wordprocessing application, into a textual document(s) located in the Wordprocessing application (pages 1-2, 6-7). Camarda fails to explicitly disclose: *enhancement criterion is a color level of the image...based on a gamma correction algorithm*. However, Photoshop teaches the altering of an image color based on a gamma correction algorithm (p.2,L.14-20). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Camarda, and Photoshop, because Photoshop teaches above the benefit of customizing of an image to be compatible with the colors of a specific computer platform. This would increase the legibility of the image obtained by the scanner, or device.

Regarding claim 19, which depends on claim 18, Camarda teaches the acquisition, transfer, and insertion of a scanned images, from an *active* TWAIN scanner, under control of a

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wordprocessing application, into a textual document(s) located in the Wordprocessing application (pages 1-2, 6-7). Camarda fails to explicitly disclose: *the application program is a word processing application, and the plurality of images are inserted into the document as a plurality of tiled images*. However, Photoshop teaches the creation of graphics using a tiling technique (p.4,L.14-p.5). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Camarda, and Photoshop because Photoshop teaches above the benefit of the use of tiled images as a web page background, thereby enhancing a web page created with the wordprocessor.

Regarding claim 31, which depends on claim 24, Camarda discloses allowing a user to customize the image settings of the image to be inserted into the document. This enhancement is done from within the wordprocessor (page 7). Camarda fails to explicitly disclose: *enhancing the quality of the captured image from within the application, the captured image quality being enhanced prior to inserting the data representing the image into the application program document*. However, Photoshop teaches the altering of an image color based on a gamma correction algorithm (p.2,L.14-20). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Camarda, and Photoshop, because Photoshop teaches above the customization of an image to be compatible with the colors of a specific computer platform.

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18. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Camarda, in view of "Troubleshooting and configuring the Windows NT/95 Registry", Clayton Johnson, hereinafter Johnson (1997, pp.1-2).

Regarding claim 11, which depends on claim 10, Camarda discloses allowing a user to customize the image settings of the image to be inserted into the document. This enhancement is done from within the wordprocessor (page 7). Camarda fails to explicitly disclose: *a set of capabilities are associated with the image source devices...and are stored in an operating system registry*. However, Johnson teaches the settings and capabilities of hardware being stored in a computer's Windows registry (p.1). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Camarda, and Johnson, because Johnson teaches above storing hardware information in a registry to enable an operating system to control and run those devices.

19. Claim 14 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Camarda, and in view of Arakawa (Pat.#5,845,076, 12/1/98).

Regarding claim 14, which depends on claim 12, Camarda teaches the automatic acquisition, transfer, and insertion of a scanned images, only from *active* TWAIN compliant scanner or camera, under control of a wordprocessing application, into a textual document(s) located in the Wordprocessing application (pages 1-2, 6-7). Camarda fails to explicitly disclose:

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setting an error flag. However, Arakawa teaches the setting of an error flag to indicate whether there was an error in the scanning process (col.10,L.34-67). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Camarda, and Arakawa, because Arakawa teaches above a scheme to discover the scanning status.

Furthermore, Camarda fails to explicitly disclose: *clearing the error flag if the automatic scan is successful, and evaluating the error flag..if the error flag has not been cleared.* However, Arakawa teaches the setting of an error flag to indicate whether there was an error in the scanning process, and therefore the scanning cannot be completed (col.10,L.34-67). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Camarda, and Arakawa, because Arakawa teaches above a scheme to discover the scanning status of a scanner, so that a user would be informed as to the status of the scanning job.

20. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Camarda, in view of Sobol, and further in view of Hearn et al, hereinafter Hearn (Pat.# 6,154,756, 11/28/00, filed on 7/1/96).

Regarding claim 20, which depends on claim 18, Camarda teaches the acquisition, transfer, and insertion of a scanned images into a textual document(s) located in the Wordprocessing application (pages 1-2, 6-7). Camarda fails to explicitly disclose: *the plurality of inserted images are inserted into the spreadsheet document as a plurality of cascaded images.*

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However, Hearn teaches combining, and nesting different data with each other, such as graphics nesting within a spreadsheet (col.3, lines 1-53). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Camarda, Sobol, and Hearn, because Hearn teaches above an improvement in the way to combine different data into a single document.

21. Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Camarda, in view of Hearn et al, hereinafter Hearn (Pat.# 6,154,756, 11/28/00, filed on 7/1/96).

Regarding claim 26, which depends on claim 24, Camarda teaches the acquisition, transfer, and insertion of a scanned images into a textual document(s) located in the Wordprocessing application (pages 1-2, 6-7). Camarda fails to explicitly disclose: *the application program is a spreadsheet application*. However, Hearn teaches combining, and nesting different data with each other, such as graphics nesting within a spreadsheet (col.3, lines 1-53). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Camarda, Sobol, and Hearn, because Hearn teaches above an improvement in the way to combine different data into a single document.

Response to Arguments

22. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The Applicants submit that Sobol, and Hawes do not disclose or suggest the amended claims (page 10, lines 15-30). The Applicants are directed towards the rejections of these newly amended claims in light of the newly found prior art.

Moreover, the Applicants submit that Sobol, and Hawes do not disclose or suggest the transfer an image directly from an image acquisition device into a document without having to first store the image to permanent storage (page 11, lines 6-12). The Applicants are directed towards the rejections of these newly amended claims in light of the newly found prior art.

Moreover, the Applicants submit that a combination of Sobol, and Hawes does not achieve the invention as amended (page 12, lines 14-15). The Applicants are directed towards the rejections of these newly amended claims in light of the newly found prior art.

Regarding claims 7-8, 19, 22, 25, and 31, the Applicants submit that Photoshop does not teach image enhancement from within the application as indicated in the invention as amended (page 13, lines 18-24). The Applicants are directed towards the rejections of these newly amended claims in view of the newly found prior art.

Regarding claim 25, the Applicants submit that Photoshop is not a word processing application for producing a textual document (page 13, lines 26-29). The Applicants are directed towards the rejections of these newly amended claims in view of the newly found prior art.

Regarding claims 12-13, 15, and 17, the Applicants submit that Photoshop does not teach automatic image scan without requiring a user to select image capture parameters (page 13, lines 18-24). The Applicants are directed towards the rejections of these newly amended claims in view of the newly found prior art.

Conclusion

I. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Bhatt (Pat. # 5,596,753), Lo et al (Pat. # 6,256,662), Ard (Pat. # 5,915,106), Corel Wordperfect 6.1, 1996, hereinafter Wordperfect "Scan Images into Wordperfect", and "Scanner Setup" printouts.

II. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cesar B. Paula whose telephone number is (703) 306-5543. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached on (703) 308-5186. However, in such a case, please allow at least one business day.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Any response to this Action should be mailed to:

Director United States Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

- (703) 746-7238, (for **After Final** communications intended for entry)

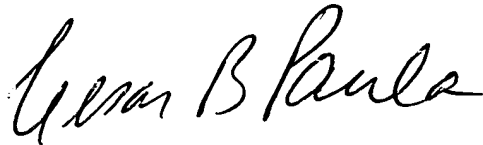
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- (703) 746-7239, (for **Formal** communications intended for entry, **except formal After Final communications**)

Or:

- (703) 746-7240, (for **Informal or Draft** communications for discussion only, please label **“PROPOSED”** or **“DRAFT”**).

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).



CESAR B PAULA
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2178

7/11/03